

AMERICAN COLLEGES.

The Leading Educational Institutions of the United States.

Sketches of the College of New Jersey, Columbia College, the University of Pennsylvania, and Brown University.

We resume to-day our series of articles on the principal colleges of the United States, giving sketches of the following institutions:—

The College of New Jersey, located at Princeton, dates its origin back to the year 1746, when the original charter was procured from the authorities of the province. The movement which resulted in its foundation grew out of dissensions in the Presbyterian Church, caused by the preaching of Whitefield in the year 1741. The religious education of the adherents of the new church party had become a matter of great consideration, especially after the death of the Rev. William Tennent, who had been giving instruction at Neshaminy in what was known as the Log College, from which several eminent divines had gone forth.

The distinguished metaphysician, Jonathan Edwards, was next chosen President, but he died in 1758, just as he was about entering upon the discharge of his duties. The Rev. Samuel Davies, an eminent divine, was the next President, but his career was also cut short by death in 1761. Previous to his appointment he had visited England, and succeeded in obtaining a considerable contribution, by which means a college building was erected in 1756, which was not only the finest structure of the kind in the country, but the largest single edifice in the colonies at that time. It was named Nassau Hall, in honor of the great Protestant hero William III, a name which the splendid building now used by the College still bears.

From 1761 to 1766, the presidency was filled by the Rev. Samuel Finley. The Rev. John Witherspoon was then called from Scotland to occupy the place, and in 1768 he was inaugurated, remaining at the head of the institution until his death, in 1794. During the Revolutionary war, however, he served as a member of the Continental Congress, and on the establishment of peace he did not return to the active discharge of his duties. At the outbreak of the War of Independence, the College was in a very prosperous condition in point of numbers, the graduating classes having averaged about 20 members for several years previous, that of 1773 containing 29. The classes of 1775 and 1776 numbered 27 each, but that of 1777 was reduced to 7, and in the next seven years there were only 48 graduates altogether.

The battle of Princeton being followed by a contest between the American and British forces in its very precincts. The latter were then occupying the buildings, and during the contest a stray shot from the American lines passed directly through the portrait of George II which hung in the chapel in Nassau Hall.

The Rev. Samuel Stanhope Smith, an accomplished and popular scholar, who had been acting as President for several years, was elected to that position in 1795, and retained the office until his resignation in 1812. He was succeeded by the Rev. Ashbel Green, from 1812 to 1822, and in 1825 commenced the long presidency of the Rev. James Carnahan, D. D., L. L. D., lasting until his resignation in 1854. Since then the position has been filled by the Rev. John Maclean, D. D., L. L. D.

From the Revolution to the present time the College has been among the most prosperous in the country, although its membership suffered considerably from the civil war, a large number of its students having previously come from the Southern States. The class of 1866 was the largest in its early history, numbering 64 members. For several years preceding the late war, the classes averaged about 70; that of 1850 rose to 80; and that of 1861 to 81. In 1862, however, there were but 49 graduates, and in 1863 only 51.

The last general catalogue was published in that year, and contained the names of 3980 graduates, of whom 1619 were dead and 2361 still living. Among the celebrated men which Princeton has given to the world were the two Richard Stocktons, President Reed, Dr. Benjamin Rush, Oliver Ellsworth, James Madison, President of the United States, Aaron Burr, John Sergeant, and Theodore Frelinghuysen.

The present condition of the institution is shown in the following statement of the number of students in attendance during the past two years:—

Table with 2 columns: Year (1866-67, 1867-68) and Student counts for Seniors, Juniors, Sophomores, Freshmen, and Totals.

The commencement for this year took place on the 26th of June, and of the class which then graduated ten were from Pennsylvania; the four following being of Philadelphia;—Henry Hazlehurst, William J. Hoar, Edward R. Miller, and James C. Wilson.

The different libraries connected with the college number 24,000 volumes. During the past three years the funds of the institution for the endowment of professorships and scholarships have been increased by donations amounting to more than \$135,000, in addition to a fund of \$10,000 for the erection of an astronomical observatory.

these moneys were vested in a Board of ten trustees, of whom seven were members of the Church of England. Several of the latter were likewise members of Trinity Church, and this circumstance, taken in connection with a liberal grant of land made by Trinity, occasioned a violent opposition to the granting of a royal charter to the projected institution, on the ground that it was an attempt to introduce a Church establishment into the province. In November, 1763, Dr. Samuel Johnson, of Connecticut, was invited to become President of the proposed College, which position he accepted, on the passage of the charter in October, 1754. From this period dates the history of the collegiate corporation which, next to Harvard University, is the wealthiest in the United States.

The institution was given the name of King's College, and was placed under the management of a board of governors, including the Archbishop of Canterbury and various colonial and home officials for the time being, the ministers of Trinity, the Reformed Protestant Dutch, the German Lutheran, the French, and the Presbyterian Churches, and twenty-four of the principal men of the city. Although it is now generally regarded as an institution of the Protestant Episcopal Church, it is not so, properly speaking. But by an imperative requirement, the President must be a member of it and in communion with that denomination.

The ground designated by Trinity Church for the site of the College was bounded by Barclay, Church, and Murray streets, and the Hudson river. This was granted to the College in May, 1755; and on a portion of it, at the foot of what was then called Upper Robinson street, now Park Place, the College was subsequently built, remaining there for a period of one hundred and three years, until a removal was rendered necessary in 1857, by the demands of business. The portion of the lands granted by Trinity which was not required for College purposes was leased, the rental furnishing the institution with a valuable revenue. In addition to the above grant, and the money raised by lottery, the resources of the College were increased by contributions from England, France, and America, and by a Legislative grant, in 1814, of twenty acres of land, bounded by the present Fifth and Sixth avenues, and Forty-seventh and Fifty-first streets. At that time this tract was worth about \$5000, but at the present day its value, owing to the improvement of the neighborhood, is almost incalculable.

In 1763 Samuel Johnson was succeeded in the Presidency by the Rev. Myles Cooper, L. L. D., who retained the position until 1775. He was only twenty-seven years of age when he came over from England to take the position, and was somewhat given to the position rather than to the study of the law. Being an earnest sympathizer with the Tories, he became very unpopular, and was finally obliged to escape from the city under cover of darkness, being saved from personal violence only through the exertions of Alexander Hamilton, then a student of the College. Since that time, the following persons have filled the office of President:—Rev. William Samuel Johnson, a son of the first President (1787-1800), Rev. Charles Wharton, D. D. (1801), Bishop Benjamin Moore, (1801-1811), Rev. William Harris, D. D. (1811-1829), Hon. William A. Duer, L. L. D. (1829-1842), Nathaniel F. Moore, L. L. D. (1842-1849), Rev. Charles King, L. L. D. (1849-1864), and the Rev. Frederick H. P. Barnard, D. D., L. L. D., the present incumbent.

The first class that graduated from the College was in 1758, and consisted of 8 members. It was not until 1766, when 11 students were graduated, that this number was equalled. From 1768 to 1776 the graduates numbered 20. In April of the latter year, the buildings were taken for military purposes, and the College exercises were almost entirely suspended until the return of peace. Among the students who were prevented from completing their regular course was Alexander Hamilton. In 1784 the institution was erected into a University, but this proved unsuccessful, and in 1787 its original organization was restored, and the name changed to Columbia College. At subsequent periods slight changes were effected in the organization by legislative authority. In 1820 important alterations and additions to the buildings were made, and in May, 1857, the College was removed from its old location on Park Place to East Forty-ninth street, between Madison and Fourth avenues.

The first graduating class after the Revolutionary War was that of 1786, which numbered 8 members. From that time to the present the size of the classes has varied greatly, reaching the maximum in 1863, when 48 were graduated, but seldom rising above 35. Among the prominent men who were graduates of the country were John Jay, Chief Justice of the United States; De Witt Clinton and Hamilton Fish, Governors of New York; Daniel D. Tompkins, Vice-President of the United States; Gouverneur Morris, Robert R. Livingston, and John Shidell.

In 1767 a Medical Department was established, the first graduating class being that of 1769, and numbering two members. It did not prosper, however, and was discontinued on the establishment of the College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1813. In 1800 a union was effected with the latter prosperous institution, which is now known as the Medical Department of Columbia College.

In 1827 a grammar school was established in connection with the College, but this was discontinued in 1833. In 1839 a more popular course of study, known as the Literary and Scientific Course, was established; but this did not meet with much favor, and was also discontinued in 1843. In 1863, however, it was reorganized by the appointment of the Faculty of the School of Mines, which is now in a very prosperous condition. In May, 1858, the Law School was established, and has become one of the largest in the country.

The last general catalogue was issued in 1864, and contained the names of 2418 regular graduates of the different departments. Of these 701 were known to be deceased, and 1717 supposed to be living. The graduates in arts numbered 161 of whom 682 were known to be deceased, and 1229 supposed to be living. The number of students in attendance in the various departments during the past two years was as follows:—

Table with 2 columns: Year (1866-67, 1867-68) and Student counts for Academic Department, Seniors, Juniors, Sophomores, Freshmen, School of Mines, Lower Classes, and Law School.

The regular Annual Commencement occurred on the 26th of June. The University of Pennsylvania dates its organization as a collegiate institution back to the year 1755. But it had its origin some years before in the Academy of Philadelphia, which went into operation in the year 1760, and for its establishment was chiefly indebted to the exertions of Benjamin Franklin.

in. As early as 1689 a public school had been started in Philadelphia, under the instruction of George Keith, in which both Latin and the mathematics were taught. Franklin first communicated his scheme for an Academy to the Rev. Richard Peters in the year 1743, and in 1749 it was revived by him, in connection with Thomas Hopkinson and others. On this occasion Franklin issued a pamphlet entitled "Proposals relative to the education of youth in Pennsylvania." In his introduction to this pamphlet, however, with characteristic modesty, he took care to represent the scheme, "not as an act of his, but of some public-spirited gentlemen, avoiding as much as he could, according to his usual rule, the presenting himself to the public as the author of any scheme for their benefit." The new Academy was placed under the control of a Board of Trustees, including Franklin himself, James Logan, Thomas Hopkinson, Richard Peters, Jacob Duche, Philip Syng, Charles Willing, and other influential men of the town. William B. Reed, Esq., in his Centennial Address before the Alumni of the University, on the 13th of November, 1849, justly remarked that they were "men of character, and standing and learning; or where, as with the greatest of them, mere scholarship was wanting, of masculine intelligence, and pure, vigorous, American motives." He added that "the spirit in every effort to do public good, from the hour when he landed penniless at Market street wharf, till the distant day when, at the end of almost a century, he was carried amidst mourning crowds and tolling bells to his modest and almost forgotten grave, was Benjamin Franklin. His mind conceived and his energy achieved the first Philadelphia College." It should also be remembered, in this connection, that at the time Franklin made his first proposition to organize the Academy, there were but three collegiate institutions in the colonies—Harvard, Yale, and William and Mary.

The articles of association were signed by the Trustees on the 13th of November, 1749, and on the following day over \$2000 were subscribed by them towards furthering the noble object they had in view. To this sum large additions were soon made by the citizens, in the way of subscriptions, gifts, and legacies, and \$200 were granted by the City Councils, in addition. Franklin deemed it a matter of vital importance that the proposed Academy should secure a permanent location, and with this object in view, he shrewdly took advantage of the religious excitement which had been created in the community by the celebrated Methodist preacher, John Whitefield. For the accommodation of the latter and similar itinerant preachers of the gospel, a building had been erected and placed under the control of members of the different religious bodies, the members of this board had been a Moravian, but as his course had not been satisfactory to his colleagues, it was resolved, on his death, to omit his sect altogether. As there was no other denomination from which to select his successor Franklin secured his own election, on the ground that he belonged to no sect at all. Having become a member of both boards, Franklin was enabled to accomplish the object he had in view, that of uniting the school and the meeting-house. In accordance with the agreement then made the main hall of the University is still thrown open to itinerant preachers, and frequently during the past winter it has been occupied by them. The building in which the itinerants preached in those days had been commenced in 1741 and completed in 1744. In 1749 Franklin secured its purchase by the association he had formed for the sum of \$777, and in 1751 the new Academy was opened in it, with English, Latin, and mathematical departments, and a separate instructor in each. A charity school was likewise opened in connection with the Academy, in which the children of such citizens as were too poor to pay the fees were taught gratuitously. Charles Thomson, who subsequently became Secretary to Congress, was for four years one of the tutors. The location of the building was on a lot at the corner of Fourth and Arch streets, where it still stands. During the war for the Union, the "University Light Infantry" occupied it as an armory.

The proprietaries of the province, in 1753, granted a charter to the organization, under the title of "The Trustees of the Academy and Charitable School in the Province of Pennsylvania." The course of instruction was then extended so as to embrace logic, rhetoric, and natural and moral philosophy, and the Rev. William Smith, who subsequently was the first Provost of the University, was employed to give instruction in these branches. In 1755 a new charter was granted, the corporation being the title of "The Provost, Vice-Provost, and Professors of the College and Academy of Philadelphia, in the Province of Pennsylvania." By this charter a collegiate character, with the power of conferring degrees, was imparted to the institution, and the Rev. William Smith, a scholarly Scotchman, who had given much attention to the subject of education, was appointed Provost. The first class, numbering 7 members, graduated on the 17th of May, 1757. Among these first graduates were Jacob Duché, Chaplain of the Continental Congress, and Francis Hopkinson, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Provost Smith, in 1762, made a voyage to Europe, in company with James Jay, of New York, to solicit contributions in behalf of the Colleges of the two cities, an effort in which they met with considerable success.

Under Smith's management the Institution soon became popular, a number of students from other provinces and the West Indies being among its attendants. In 1762 it was found necessary to erect a separate building for the accommodation of the students from a distance, the requisite funds being readily raised by a lottery. In this way about \$5000 was realized, including the home subscriptions and legacies. A grant of three thousand acres of land in Bucks county, accompanied by a contribution of \$500 in cash, had been procured by the Proprietaries, when the first charter was obtained. The amount realized by the lottery to England was £13,000, which was divided between Philadelphia and New York. Ten or twelve years later the funds of the institution were increased full £3000 by subscriptions in South Carolina and Jamaica. By 1763 the number of students had risen to 400, of whom about one-third were connected with the regular collegiate department.

In 1765 Dr. Morton was appointed Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic, and Dr. William Shippen Professor of Anatomy and Surgery; and soon after, Dr. Kuhn, Professor of Botany, and Dr. Benjamin Rush, Professor of Chemistry, were added. This was the origin of the most famous and popular Medical School in America, although it was not regularly organized as such until 1797. In 1768 the degree of "Doctor of Medicine" was first conferred. The institution was in this highly prosperous condition when it encountered the disconcerting effects of the Revolutionary War. Dr. Smith was accused of sympathizing with the Proprietaries, and suspected, moreover, of intending, in connection with some of the trustees, to convert the institution into a

regular Church of England establishment, thereby defeating the liberal character which the original founders had desired to impart to it. These difficulties culminated in 1770, when an act was passed forfeiting the charter and funds of the College, and creating a new institution, with the title of "The University of Pennsylvania;" of which the Rev. Dr. John Ewing was made Provost. Liberal grants out of the confiscated estates of the Royalists were given the new institution, and all the offices and professorships were refilled. But Dr. Smith was not disposed to acquiesce in such measures; so in 1782 he procured the passage of an act reinstating the trustees and faculty of the old college in all their estates and privileges. Dr. Smith again became Provost, and the two institutions battled against each other for a period of two years. In 1791 the old college finally succumbed, and by an act of the Legislature, the two institutions were then blended in one. Dr. Smith was unable to procure his reappointment as Provost, and he retired from all connection with the college, towards the success of which he had contributed so much. He continued, however, in the receipt of an annuity of £100 until his death, in 1803.

Dr. Ewing, the new Provost, was a native of Maryland and a graduate of Princeton, and enjoyed a high reputation for his attainments in the classics, metaphysics, and natural science. From the year 1769 until his death he was pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. Since that time the office of Provost has been held by the Rev. Dr. John McDowell, from 1806 to 1810; the Rev. Dr. John Andrews, from 1810 to 1813; the Rev. Dr. Frederick Beasley, from 1813 to 1828; Bishop William H. Delancey, from 1828 to 1834; the Rev. Dr. John Ludlow, from 1834 to 1852; the Rev. Dr. Henry Vethake, from 1854 to 1859; and the Rev. Daniel R. Goodwin, D. D., elected in 1860. On the union of the two rival institutions in 1791 a department of law was added to the University, but previous to 1852 there was only one professor, and at times the lectures were entirely interrupted. In 1852 the Law School was established in its present form, and the number of professors increased to three. The Hon. George Sharswood, now President Judge of the District Court of this city, had been elected Professor of Law in 1850. He was continued in his position, and Peter McCall, Esq., and E. Spencer Miller, Esq., were selected to fill the new professorships. Mr. McCall subsequently retired, and P. Pemberton Morris, Esq., was appointed to the vacancy thus created.

The largest graduating class in the College, previous to the Revolutionary War, was that of 1771, which numbered 14 members. The next class fell to 2 members, and from that period until the union of the two institutions the graduating classes were quite small. The largest classes since then have been those of 1821, with 34 members; 1822, with 26 members; and 1841, with 31 members. The last general catalogue issued was in 1849, when the institution had completed the first century of its existence. This contained the names of 1120 graduates. Since that time the graduating classes have averaged about 20 in number, so that the alumni of the Literary Department number about 1480 in all. A new general catalogue is now in course of preparation.

Table showing the present condition of the different departments as shown in the following statement, which gives the number of students for 1866-67, as compared with 1865-66:—

Table with 3 columns: Department (Department of Arts, Department of Medicine, Department of Law, Total University Students, English Charity Schools, Grand Totals) and Student counts for 1866-67 and 1865-66.

An earnest effort is now being made by the authorities of the University to extend the sphere of its usefulness. With that object in view, important modifications have been made during the past year in the course of study, and the New England system of long reviews of the studies of the year, followed by thorough and detailed examinations, adopted. The project of removing the Academic Department to a suburban locality is also being discussed. The removal of the Law and Medical Departments from the center of the city would interfere with their success, so that it is proposed to retain their present location. As a preliminary to the removal of the Academic Department, it is proposed to raise \$500,000 as a new endowment, and until the subscription for this is fairly under way, no definite steps can be taken by the Trustees in the matter. The project is being actively canvassed, and it is to be hoped that within a short time the measure will assume a tangible form. If the University should be so fortunate as to secure this increase in its present endowment, it would be able to erect in a convenient locality near the city such buildings as would be rendered necessary by the proposed extension in its course of study. These last contemplate the establishment of a department in which theoretical studies which are so rapidly becoming popular will be taught, while the regular Academic course as at present constituted will remain unchanged.

Brown University, the principal educational institution of the Baptist denomination in this country, was chartered by the General Assembly of Rhode Island in 1764. Until the year 1804 it bore the title of the College of Rhode Island, which, in that year, was changed to Brown University, by virtue of a provision in the charter empowering the trustees and fellows to give it a more particular name, "in honor of the greatest and most distinguished benefactor." It was indebted for its origin to the personal exertions of the Rev. James Manning, a Baptist clergyman of New Jersey, who, in 1763, visited Newport for the purpose of securing the aid of a projected College in the interests of the Baptist cause, and of certain prominent Baptists who were then connected with the Colonial Government. Its founders desired that the institution might forever remain under the paramount control of the Baptist persuasion, and hence it was provided that they should enjoy a preponderance in the Board of Trustees. The President was also required to be of that faith, but no restrictions were placed on the choice of the remaining officers, and several other denominations have always been represented in the Board of Trustees. It was, moreover, and catholic in its charter "that into this institution any religious sect, but, on the contrary, all the members shall forever enjoy full, free, absolute, and uninterrupted liberty of conscience."

Manning's services were properly recognized by his selection as President in the year 1765. He began at once the instruction of a few pupils at his private residence at Warren, where the first commencement was held in 1769, the graduating class numbering 7 members. In 1770, after quite a number of years, the institution was permanently established at Providence. From its foundation to the year 1777 there were 60 graduates in all. From that time to 1782, the regular exercises were interrupted by the State militia, and by the French troops under Rochambeau, as a hospital. In 1782 a class of 7 members was graduated, and in 1783 another class of 6. The next class was that of 1786, with 15 members. In 1790, the graduates numbered 22, in 1802, 28, and in 1808, 33. The largest class ever graduated was one of 48 members, in 1829. During the last few years, the average number has been about 40.

In 1786 President Manning was elected to Congress, but his connection with the college did not terminate until his death, in 1791. In 1792 the Rev. Jonathan Massey, D. D., was elected President, retaining the position until 1802, when he succeeded President Edwards at Union College. He subsequently became the first President of the College of South Carolina, at Columbia. From 1802 to 1826 the Rev. Asa Messer, D. D., L. L. D., filled the Presidency. These were prosperous days for the institution, rendered especially so by the liberal donations of the Hon. Nicholas Brown, a graduate, amounting altogether to about \$100,000. In gratitude for this timely aid the college was honored with his name.

From 1827 to 1855 the celebrated divine, Francis Wayland, D. D., L. L. D., occupied the Presidential chair, and during his term of office materially improved the course of study. His services in the cause of universal education are too well known to need recapitulation here. In 1855 the Rev. Barnes Sears, D. D., L. L. D., became President, retaining the position until a few months since, when he resigned, to become President of the Board of Trustees of the Peabody Southern Educational Fund. His successor has not yet been chosen, the Rev. Dr. Anderson, President of Rochester University, to whom the position was tendered, having declined it.

The institution is now one of the most prosperous minor colleges in the United States. A few years ago, \$200,000 were given by citizens of Providence towards its further endowment, and since then a movement has been in progress for increasing it by an addition of \$300,000 more. The library, containing 33,000 volumes, is one of the best college libraries in the country, and is being continually enlarged by the proceeds of a fund of \$25,000, established for this purpose in 1839. The general catalogue published in 1866 contains the names of 2266 graduates, of whom 947 were then deceased, and 1319 still living. During the past two years, the number of students has been as follows:—

Table with 2 columns: Student counts for Resident Graduates, Seniors, Juniors, Freshmen, and Totals.

The degree of "Bachelor of Philosophy" is conferred, as well as that of "Bachelor of Arts." The annual commencement does not take place until the 4th of September next. There are no Philadelphians in the graduating class.

[In a few days we shall resume the subject, with sketches of the institutions of learning which follow the above in the order of their establishment.]

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